out that more than 24,000 people die of hunger every day and nearly 78 per cent of them are women and children;

(c) whether it is also a fact that every third hungry person in the world is an Indian; and

(d) the details of schemes that have been prepared?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The CEFS or the Centre for Environment and Food Security is a Delhi based NGO founded in April 2001 by some eminent scholars, writers, environmentalists, scientists and activists.

As per information supplied by the CEFS, they have launched a Freedom from Hunger campaign to banish the scourge of hunger from India by bringing this issue in mainstream intellectual discourse and at the Centre of Public Policy. CEFS is not observing the year 2005 as a year of complete freedom from hunger.

(b) and (c) Yes, CEFS has pointed out that more than 24,000 people die of hunger every day in the world and nearly 78% of them are women and children. They have furthermore stated that since almost one third of the hungry people of the world are living in India, it would be logical to assume that every third hungry person in the world is an Indian. Government does not share these perceptions on the basis of official records.

(d) As regards the details of the schemes, they have stated that they are a very small NGO with meager resources and, therefore, are not up to the task of preparing schemes and plans for the eradication of hunger from the country. Their basic methodology consists in holding of lecture, workshops, seminars and conferences on the issue of food security all over India.

Stray cattle

4649. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of stray cattle in the country is increasing day by day and they are damaging the crops;

(b) if so, the details of Government's policy to control them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that when cows go dry they are left on the roads by their owners and they not only die during accidents but also endanger the lives of human beings; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The National Commission on Cattle constituted by Government of India in its report has observed that increasing number of cattle in general and cow and its progeny in particular roaming on the streets of towns and cities as stray cattle is a serious menace to the environment, transport system and general living of the people. To regulate, control, remove and maintain stray cattle wandering on streets and roadsides without owners, the Commission recommended that stray cattle be kept in cattle houses or cattle compounds to be maintained by the local self government institutions, Municipalities and Panchayats. The recommendation of the Commission has been sent to all the State Governments for implementation. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is also implementing a scheme "for provision of shelter house for looking after the animals" for welfare of animals including stray animals.

Construction of rural godowns

4650. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1862 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th March, 2005 and state:

(a) the number of storage projects which have been sanction by NCDC and NABARD;

(b) the number of godowns which have actually been constructed alongwith the details of the subsidy given to the owners of the godowns; and

(c) the future plan of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Under the Central Sector Scheme for the Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns, as on 31st March, 2005, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned 7107 projects of 113.614 lakh tonne capacity. Similarly, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has sanctioned 954 projects for construction of new rural godowns with a capacity of 9.010 lakh tonnes and 1422 projects for renovation of coop. godowns with a capacity of 19.205 lakh tonne.